

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

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JAN 18 2023

AT SEATTLE
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
BY DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

NO. CR22-160 RSM

Plaintiff,

PLEA AGREEMENT

V.

JUSTIN COSTELLO.

Defendant.

The United States, through United States Attorney Nicholas W. Brown and

Assistant United States Attorneys Justin W. Arnold and Michael Dion of the Western District of Washington and defendant Justin Costello and defendant Justin Costello's attorney, Assistant Federal Public Defender Dennis Carroll, enter into the following Plea Agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(A) and (B).

1. **The Charge.** Defendant, having been advised of the right to have this matter tried before a jury, agrees to waive that right and enters a plea of guilty to the following charge contained in the Indictment:

1 Securities Fraud, as charged in Count 20, in violation of Title 15, United States
 2 Code, Sections 78j(b) and 78ff, and Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Section
 3 240.10b-5.

4 By entering a plea of guilty, Defendant hereby waives all objections to the form of
 5 the charging document. Defendant further understands that before entering any guilty
 6 plea, Defendant will be placed under oath. Any statement given by Defendant under oath
 7 may be used by the United States in a prosecution for perjury or false statement.

8 2. **Elements of the Offense.** The elements of the offense to which Defendant
 9 is pleading guilty are as follows:

10 *First*, the Defendant willfully used a device or scheme to defraud someone,
 11 made an untrue statement of a material fact, and engaged in any act, practice, or course of
 12 business that operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person;

13 *Second*, the Defendant's acts were undertaken and statements were made in
 14 connection with the purchase and sale of a security; that is, the securities of GRN
 15 Holding Corporation;

16 *Third*, the Defendant directly or indirectly used the Internet and national
 17 securities exchanges in connection with these acts and making these statements; and

18 *Fourth*, the Defendant acted knowingly.

19 3. **The Penalties.** Defendant understands that the statutory penalties
 20 applicable to the offense to which Defendant is pleading guilty are as follows:

21 For the offense of Securities Fraud, as charged in Count 20: A maximum term of
 22 imprisonment of up to twenty (20) years, a fine of up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000),
 23 a period of supervision following release from prison of up to three (3) years, and a
 24 mandatory special assessment of 100 dollars. If a probationary sentence is imposed, the
 25 probation period can be for up to five (5) years.

26 Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following
 27 imprisonment during which Defendant will be subject to certain restrictive conditions and

1 requirements. Defendant further understands that, if supervised release is imposed and
 2 Defendant violates one or more of the conditions or requirements, Defendant could be
 3 returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release that was originally
 4 imposed. This could result in Defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater
 5 than the statutory maximum stated above.

6 Defendant understands that as a part of any sentence, in addition to any term of
 7 imprisonment and/or fine that is imposed, the Court must order Defendant to pay
 8 restitution to any victim of the offense, as required by law.

9 Defendant further understands that the consequences of pleading guilty may
 10 include the forfeiture of certain property, either as a part of the sentence imposed by the
 11 Court, or as a result of civil judicial or administrative process.

12 Defendant agrees that any monetary penalty the Court imposes, including the
 13 special assessment, fine, costs, or restitution, is due and payable immediately and further
 14 agrees to submit a completed Financial Disclosure Statement as requested by the United
 15 States Attorney's Office.

16 Defendant understands that, if pleading guilty to a felony drug offense, Defendant
 17 will become ineligible for certain food stamp and Social Security benefits as directed by
 18 Title 21, United States Code, Section 862a.

19 **4. Rights Waived by Pleading Guilty.** Defendant understands that by
 20 pleading guilty, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:

- 21 a. The right to plead not guilty and to persist in a plea of not guilty;
- 22 b. The right to a speedy and public trial before a jury of Defendant's
 peers;
- 24 c. The right to the effective assistance of counsel at trial, including, if
 25 Defendant could not afford an attorney, the right to have the Court appoint one for
 26 Defendant;

1 d. The right to be presumed innocent until guilt has been established
 2 beyond a reasonable doubt at trial;

3 e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against Defendant
 4 at trial;

5 f. The right to compel or subpoena witnesses to appear on Defendant's
 6 behalf at trial;

7 g. The right to testify or to remain silent at trial, at which trial such
 8 silence could not be used against Defendant; and

9 h. The right to appeal a finding of guilt or any pretrial rulings.

10 5. **United States Sentencing Guidelines.** Defendant understands and
 11 acknowledges that the Court must consider the sentencing range calculated under the
 12 United States Sentencing Guidelines and possible departures under the Sentencing
 13 Guidelines together with the other factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code,
 14 Section 3553(a), including: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense; (2) the
 15 history and characteristics of Defendant; (3) the need for the sentence to reflect the
 16 seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment
 17 for the offense; (4) the need for the sentence to afford adequate deterrence to criminal
 18 conduct; (5) the need for the sentence to protect the public from further crimes of
 19 Defendant; (6) the need to provide Defendant with educational and vocational training,
 20 medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (7) the kinds
 21 of sentences available; (8) the need to provide restitution to victims; and (9) the need to
 22 avoid unwarranted sentence disparity among defendants involved in similar conduct who
 23 have similar records. Accordingly, Defendant understands and acknowledges that:

24 a. The Court will determine Defendant's Sentencing Guidelines range
 25 at the time of sentencing;

1 b. After consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and the factors in
 2 18 U.S.C. 3553(a), the Court may impose any sentence authorized by law, up to the
 3 maximum term authorized by law;

4 c. The Court is not bound by any recommendation regarding the
 5 sentence to be imposed, or by any calculation or estimation of the Sentencing Guidelines
 6 range offered by the parties or the United States Probation Department, or by any
 7 stipulations or agreements between the parties in this Plea Agreement; and

8 d. Defendant may not withdraw a guilty plea solely because of the
 9 sentence imposed by the Court.

10 6. **Ultimate Sentence.** Defendant acknowledges that no one has promised or
 11 guaranteed what sentence the Court will impose.

12 7. **Statement of Facts.** Defendant admits Defendant is guilty of the charged
 13 offense. The parties agree on the following facts, and further agree that all the following
 14 conduct constitutes relevant conduct for sentencing purposes:

15 ***Costello's Fraudulent Activity Concerning GRN Holding Corp.***

16 a. Between at least November 2018 through May 2021, Defendant
 17 Justin Costello made or caused to be made material misrepresentations to purchasers and
 18 sellers of GRN Holding Corp. securities through public and private statements
 19 concerning Costello's educational and professional background and GRN Holding
 Corp.'s purported acquisition of other companies.

20 b. When soliciting funds directly from investors, Costello made several
 21 materially false representations concerning his educational and employment background,
 22 qualifications, assets, and investment strategy. Specifically, when soliciting investors,
 23 Costello made the following materially false representations:
 24
 25
 26
 27

1 i. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree
 2 in Public Business Administration and had a Master's in Business Administration (MBA)
 3 from Harvard Business School. As set forth below in paragraph 7(d), Costello filed or
 4 caused to be filed an Amended Form 8-K with the SEC concerning this issue on October
 5 2, 2019;

6 ii. He had far more personal assets than he actually did;

7 iii. He managed money for wealthy individuals;

8 iv. He had 14 years of very similar experience on Wall Street;
 9 and

10 v. He was the Chief Executive Officer of GRN Funds, LLC, a
 11 private equity fund and hedge fund with over \$1 billion in assets under management.

12 c. Costello also made several materially false public statements to the
 13 purchasers and sellers of GRN Holding Corp. securities through filings with the U.S.
 14 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and press releases. As set forth below, these
 15 false and fraudulent statements concerned Costello's educational history, the size of
 16 Costello's company, and GRN Holding Corporation's potential acquisition of other
 17 companies.

18 d. On July 1, 2019, Discovery Gold Corporation (the publicly traded
 19 company that would become GRN Holding Corp.) filed a Form 8-K with the SEC
 20 announcing the purchase of the majority of its outstanding shares by GRN Funds, LLC.
 21 In the Form 8-K, which Costello signed as CEO, Costello falsely described himself as a
 22 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Public Business Administration
 23 and a graduate of Harvard Business School. The Form 8-K also falsely described GRN
 24 Funds, LLC as a "private equity and hedge fund." At the time, the GRN Funds, LLC
 25 website falsely stated that the company had \$1.15 billion in assets under management. On
 26 October 2, 2019, Costello filed or caused to be filed an Amended Form 8-K with the SEC
 27 that stated Costello was a graduate of Winona State University with a degree in Public
 28 Administration who attended Harvard University but did not graduate. This statement
 29 was also misleading in that Costello only took one course in Harvard's continuing
 30 education program.

31 e. On November 12, 2019, GRN Holding Corp., at Costello's direction,
 32 issued a press release stating it had signed non-binding Letters of Intent to acquire at least
 33 ten companies, including Pacific Banking Corp, subject to the completion of due
 34 diligence and execution of material definitive agreements. The press release also stated
 35 that the acquisitions would "reflect a material change to the company's business plans

1 and will result in the acquisition of a significant amount of assets.” Costello included or
 2 caused to be included this information in GRN Holding Corp.’s Form 10-Q filed with the
 3 SEC on December 23, 2019. Throughout January and February 2020, at Costello’s
 4 direction GRN Holding Corp. issued ten press releases announcing the completion of due
 5 diligence for each company.

6 f. For example, on or about February 24, 2020, GRN Holding Corp.
 7 issued a press release announcing that it had “completed its due diligence in connection
 8 with the acquisition of Pacific Banking Corp.” In the press release, GRN Holding Corp.
 9 falsely described Pacific Banking Corp.’s services as meeting “the highest standards of
 10 compliance according to BSA and FinCEN requirements” and that the “PBC Compliance
 11 Program performs a full audit and compliance assessment of legacy cash and monitors
 12 and evaluates daily transactions.” In fact, as set forth below, at the time of the issuance of
 13 the press release, Pacific Banking Corp., operating through Costello, was actively
 14 defrauding at least two marijuana businesses.

15 g. Beginning in July 2020, at Costello’s direction, GRN Holding Corp.
 16 began announcing binding Letters of Intent to acquire the same companies. In a Form 10-
 17 K filed with the SEC on August 13, 2020, GRN Holding Corp. stated that it was closing
 18 on Letters of Intent with the companies subject to the execution of material definitive
 19 agreements. Contrary to these statements, GRN Holding Corp., acting through Costello,
 20 never completed the acquisitions of the companies even though Costello was an affiliate,
 21 shareholder, owner, or manager of each company. In addition, and contrary to Costello’s
 22 representations to investors, these companies had little to no revenue or assets.

23 h. Between July 1, 2019, and May 18, 2021, over 7,500 investors
 24 purchased and sold GRN Holding Corp. securities while Costello was making, and
 25 causing to be made, the material misrepresentations concerning GRN Holding Corp.
 26 Collectively, these investors lost approximately \$25 million.

Costello’s Fraudulent Activity Concerning Hempstract, Inc.

27 i. Between February 2020, and April 2020, Costello made several
 28 material misrepresentations to investors concerning Hempstract, Inc. (formerly known as
 29 Riverdale Oil and Gas Corp.) in addition to the false statements set forth in paragraph 7b
 30 above. For example, Costello told one investor that a large grocery business in Chicago
 31 named Dominick’s had made a \$12 million purchase order for Hempstract products. In
 32 addition, in an investor presentation on March 9, 2020, Costello made several materially
 33 false statements concerning his background and the potential operation of Hempstract,
 34 including:

New York; and

i. He worked in Seattle, but also had offices in London and

ii. He had over 400 clients in the marijuana industry for which he provided banking services.

j. In addition, Costello made or caused to be made materially false statements concerning Hempstract in disclosure statements. Specifically, Costello falsely stated that he received 24 million shares of Riverdale Oil & Gas Corp. stock in exchange for Hempstract, LLC's assets, valued at approximately \$11 million. These assets purportedly included 3,125 kilograms of CBD Isolate, valued at approximately \$10.7 million. In fact, Hempstract, LLC did not have \$10.7 million in assets at the time of the merger.

k. Between November 2018 and June 2021, in reliance on Costello's false statements set forth above, approximately 29 investors collectively lost approximately \$6 million.

Costello's Fraudulent Activity Concerning Marijuana Companies

1. From at least 2017 through September 2022, Costello owned and controlled companies, including Pacific Banking Corp., that purportedly provided banking services to marijuana businesses located in the States of Washington, California, Colorado, Illinois, and Alaska.

m. Between April 2019 and March 2020, Costello entered into agreements with Marijuana Business 1, Marijuana Business 2, and Marijuana Business 3 in which Costello, through Pacific Banking Corp., agreed to provide banking services to these marijuana businesses. In the agreements, Costello falsely represented that Pacific Banking Corp. would only take actions on the accounts or execute transactions as authorized by the marijuana businesses.

n. Contrary to his representations to the marijuana businesses, between May 2019 and July 2021, Costello fraudulently diverted funds belonging to the marijuana businesses to benefit Costello's other companies, to make payments on behalf of other Pacific Banking Corp. clients, and for his personal benefit.

o. Between May 2019 and September 2022, Costello provided the marijuana businesses with false and fraudulent Pacific Banking Corp. account statements that falsely showed that Pacific Banking Corp. still maintained custody and control of the funds belonging to marijuana businesses.

1 p. Between October 2020 and September 2021, Costello entered into
 2 Mutual Termination and Release Agreements with Marijuana Business 2 and Marijuana
 3 Business 3. In these Agreements, Costello falsely agreed to return the funds belonging to
 4 Marijuana Business 2 and Marijuana Business 3. In fact, Costello had diverted and
 misappropriated the funds, and he failed to make the payments required under the
 5 Agreements.

6 q. On September 15, 2022, Costello filed a Declaration in a pending
 7 lawsuit between Marijuana Business 1 and Pacific Banking Corp., GRN Funds, LLC, and
 8 Costello. In his Declaration, Costello falsely stated that Marijuana Business 1's funds
 9 were located "in an aggregate account in the name of Defendant GRN Funds, LLC"
 located at Sound Credit Union in Tacoma, Washington, and that the "balance of funds as
 10 of September 9, 2022" is at least \$2,923,858.13 for the funds in the account that are
 attributable to [Marijuana Business 1]." Contrary to Costello's sworn statements, the
 GRN Funds, LLC checking account at Sound Credit Union had a balance of \$15.35 on
 11 September 9, 2022.

12 r. In total, Costello fraudulently diverted \$3,694,905.73 of the
 13 marijuana businesses (made up of \$3,022,464.35 for Marijuana Business 1, \$122,486.92
 for Marijuana Business 2, and \$549,954.46 for Marijuana Business 3).

14 *Costello's Fraudulent Pump-and-Dump Activity*

15 s. Between October 2019 and January 2021, Costello engaged in a
 16 fraudulent pump-and-dump scheme through which Costello manipulated the price of a
 17 number of securities, including securities of Foothills Exploration Inc., REMSleep
 Holdings, Inc., Clancy Systems International Inc., Riverdale Oil and Gas
 18 Corp./Hempstract Inc., and Victoria Lake Inc.

19 t. As part of his scheme, Costello purchased large blocks of stock of
 20 these companies at low prices. Costello then retained a paid another individual with the
 21 initials D.F. to use Twitter to fraudulently promote, or pump, the stocks by mispresenting
 22 facts about the companies to drive up the stocks' prices. Costello simultaneously and
 secretly sold, or dumped his previously acquired shares at those artificially inflated
 23 prices.

24 u. In total, Costello made \$625,092.02 in illicit profits through the
 manipulation of these stocks in his pump-and-dump scheme.

25 The parties agree that the Court may consider additional facts contained in the
 Presentence Report (subject to standard objections by the parties) and/or that may be
 26 presented by the United States or Defendant at the time of sentencing, and that the factual
 27

1 statement contained herein is not intended to limit the facts that the parties may present to
 2 the Court at the time of sentencing.

3 **8. Sentencing Factors.** The parties agree that the following Sentencing
 4 Guidelines provisions apply to this case:

5 a. A base offense level of seven (7) pursuant to USSG §2B1.1(a);

6 b. A twenty-two (22) level enhancement pursuant to USSG
 7 § 2B1.1(b)(1)(K) because the offense caused a loss to the victims of the offense of more
 8 than \$25,000,000 but less than \$65,000,000;

9 c. A two (2) level enhancement pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)
 10 because the offense involved ten (10) or more victims;

11 d. A two (2) level enhancement pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(b)(10)
 12 because the offense involved sophisticated means and Defendant engaged in or caused
 13 the conduct constituting sophisticated means;

14 e. A four (4) level enhancement pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(b)(20)
 15 because the offense involved a violation of securities law and, at the time of the offense,
 16 Defendant was an officer or a director of a publicly traded company.

17 In addition, the United States reserves the right to seek, and Defendant reserves
 18 the right to oppose, the application of a two (2) level enhancement pursuant to USSG §
 19 3C1.1.

20 The parties agree that other than as set forth in paragraph 9 below no other
 21 provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines apply. Defendant understands,
 22 however, that at the time of sentencing, the Court is free to reject these stipulated
 23 adjustments, and is further free to apply additional downward or upward adjustments in
 24 determining Defendant's Sentencing Guidelines range.

25 **9. Acceptance of Responsibility.** At sentencing, if the Court concludes
 26 Defendant qualifies for a downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility pursuant
 27 to USSG § 3E1.1(a) and Defendant's offense level is 16 or greater, the United States will

1 make the motion necessary to permit the Court to decrease the total offense level by three
 2 (3) levels pursuant to USSG §§ 3E1.1(a) and (b), because Defendant has assisted the
 3 United States by timely notifying the United States of Defendant's intention to plead
 4 guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the
 5 Court to allocate its resources efficiently.

6 **10. Agreed Recommendation Regarding Imprisonment.** Pursuant to
 7 Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B), the parties jointly agree to recommend
 8 that the appropriate term of imprisonment to be imposed by the Court at the time of
 9 sentencing is a term of 120 months. Defendant understands that this recommendation is
 10 not binding on the Court and the Court may reject the recommendation of the parties and
 11 may impose any term of imprisonment up to the statutory maximum penalty authorized
 12 by law. Defendant further understands that Defendant cannot withdraw a guilty plea
 13 simply because of the sentence imposed by the Court. Except as otherwise provided in
 14 this Plea Agreement, the parties are free to present arguments regarding any other aspect
 15 of sentencing.

16 **11. Restitution.** Defendant shall make restitution to the victims of his offense
 17 in a total amount of not less than \$35 million which will be allocated among the victims
 18 according to a schedule provided by the United States at sentencing, with credit for any
 19 amounts already paid.

20 a. The full amount of restitution shall be due and payable immediately
 21 on entry of judgment and shall be paid as quickly as possible. If the Court finds that the
 22 defendant is unable to make immediate restitution in full and sets a payment schedule as
 23 contemplated in 18 U.S.C. § 3664(f), Defendant agrees that the Court's schedule
 24 represents a minimum payment obligation and does not preclude the U.S. Attorney's
 25 Office from pursuing any other means by which to satisfy the defendant's full and
 26 immediately-enforceable financial obligation, including, but not limited to, by pursuing
 27

1 assets that come to light only after the district court finds that the defendant is unable to
 2 make immediate restitution.

3 b. Defendant agrees to disclose all assets in which Defendant has any
 4 interest or over which Defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those
 5 held by a spouse, nominee, or third party. Defendant agrees to cooperate fully with the
 6 United States' investigation identifying all property in which Defendant has an interest
 7 and with the United States' lawful efforts to enforce prompt payment of the financial
 8 obligations to be imposed in connection with this prosecution. Defendant's cooperation
 9 obligations are: (1) before sentencing, and no more than 30 days after executing this Plea
 10 Agreement, truthfully and completely executing a Financial Disclosure Statement
 11 provided by the United States Attorney's Office and signed under penalty of perjury
 12 regarding Defendant's and Defendant's spouse's financial circumstances and producing
 13 supporting documentation, including tax returns, as requested; (2) providing updates
 14 with any material changes in circumstances, as described in 18 U.S.C. § 3664(k), within
 15 seven days of the event giving rise to the changed circumstances; (3) authorizing the
 16 United States Attorney's Office to obtain Defendant's credit report before sentencing; (4)
 17 providing waivers, consents or releases requested by the U.S. Attorney's Office to access
 18 records to verify the financial information; (5) authorizing the U.S. Attorney's Office to
 19 inspect and copy all financial documents and information held by the U.S. Probation
 20 Office; (6) submitting to an interview regarding Defendant's Financial Statement and
 21 supporting documents before sentencing (if requested by the United States Attorney's
 22 Office), and fully and truthfully answering questions during such interview; and (7)
 23 notifying the United States Attorney's Office before transferring any interest in property
 24 owned directly or indirectly by Defendant, including any interest held or owned in any
 25 other name, including all forms of business entities and trusts.

1 c. The parties acknowledge that voluntary payment of restitution prior
 2 to the adjudication of guilt is a factor the Court considers in determining whether
 3 Defendant qualifies for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(a).

4 **12. Forfeiture of Assets.** Defendant understands that the forfeiture of assets is
 5 part of the sentence imposed in this case. Defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States
 6 immediately Defendant's right, title, and interest in any and all property, real or personal,
 7 constituting or derived from, any proceeds that Defendant obtained, directly or indirectly,
 8 as a result of his commission of Securities Fraud, as charged in Count 20 in the
 9 Indictment. This property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,
 10 Section 981(a)(1)(C), by way of Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), and
 11 includes, but is not limited to, a judgment for a sum of money in the amount of
 12 \$625,092.02 (the "Forfeiture Money Judgment"), representing the proceeds Defendant
 13 personally obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of his commission of the securities
 14 fraud scheme.

15 Defendant consents to the entry of an Order of Forfeiture for the unpaid amount, if
 16 any, of the Forfeiture Money Judgment at the time of sentencing. Defendant
 17 acknowledges that the United States will record the Order of Forfeiture against him in
 18 King County, Washington.

19 Defendant agrees that the factors set forth in Title 21, United States Code, Section
 20 853(p)(1)(A)-(E), have been satisfied. Defendant understands that the United States may
 21 seek to pursue additional property of Defendant as substitute assets, pursuant to Title 21,
 22 United States Code, Section 853(p), until such time as the Forfeiture Money Judgment is
 23 paid in full. Defendant understands that the United States, at its discretion, may pursue
 24 forfeiture of the following property as substitute assets:

- 25 a. \$60,000.05 in United States currency;
- 26 b. 63,311.95 Mexican pesos (converted to United States dollars);
- 27 c. five PAMP 1oz .999 gold bars;

- d. one Sunshine Mint 1oz .999 gold bar
- e. one Chopard "Mille Miglia" limited edition 14/250 18k yellow gold wristwatch with black dial and original black leather band, Model # 1254, Serial # 939050;
- f. one Chopard "Monaco Historique" stainless steel wristwatch with white dial and black leather band, Model # 8568, Serial # 1929287;
- g. one 14k yellow gold Cuban link chain with 14k yellow gold gun pendants set with genuine 2.4mm round rubies, emeralds, and diamonds (9 of each) in grip of gun; and
- h. one 18k yellow gold grenade charm set with 31 0.01 carat full-cut round diamonds.

Defendant further understands and acknowledges that the Forfeiture Money Judgment is separate and distinct from any restitution the Court may order in this case. The United States agrees, however, that it will request the Attorney General apply any amounts it collects toward satisfaction of the Forfeiture Money Judgment to the restitution that is ordered. The United States also agrees that any amount Defendant pays toward restitution will be credited against this Forfeiture Money Judgment.

Defendant agrees to fully assist the United States in the forfeiture of the above-described property and to take whatever steps are necessary to pass clear title to the United States, including but not limited to: surrendering title and executing any documents necessary to effectuate such forfeiture; assisting in bringing any assets located outside the United States within the jurisdiction of the United States; and taking whatever steps are necessary to ensure that assets subject to forfeiture are not sold, disbursed, wasted, hidden, or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture. Defendant agrees not to file a claim, or to assist any third party with filing a claim, to any of the above-described property in any federal forfeiture proceeding, administrative or judicial, which may be or has been initiated.

1 The United States reserves its right to proceed against any remaining assets not
 2 identified in this Plea Agreement, including any property in which Defendant has any
 3 interest or control, if said assets constitute or are derived from proceeds of the securities
 4 fraud scheme.

5 **13. Non-Prosecution of Additional Offenses.** As part of this Plea Agreement,
 6 the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington agrees not to
 7 prosecute Defendant for any additional offenses known to it as of the time of this Plea
 8 Agreement based upon evidence in its possession at this time, and that arise out of the
 9 conduct giving rise to this investigation and to move to dismiss the remaining counts in
 10 the Indictment at the time of sentencing. In this regard, Defendant recognizes the United
 11 States has agreed not to prosecute all of the criminal charges the evidence establishes
 12 were committed by Defendant solely because of the promises made by Defendant in this
 13 Plea Agreement. Defendant agrees, however, that for purposes of preparing the
 14 Presentence Report, the United States Attorney's Office will provide the United States
 15 Probation Office with evidence of all conduct committed by Defendant.

16 Also, as part of this Plea Agreement, the United States Attorney's Office for the
 17 Western District of Washington agrees not to prosecute Costello's wife – K.R. – for any
 18 offenses known to it as of the time of this Plea Agreement based upon evidence in its
 19 possession at this time, and that arise out of the conduct giving rise to this investigation.

20 Defendant agrees that any charges to be dismissed before or at the time of
 21 sentencing were substantially justified in light of the evidence available to the United
 22 States, were not vexatious, frivolous or taken in bad faith, and do not provide Defendant
 23 with a basis for any future claims under the "Hyde Amendment," Pub. L. No. 105-119
 24 (1997).

25 **14. Breach, Waiver, and Post-Plea Conduct.** Defendant agrees that, if
 26 Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement: (a) the United States may withdraw from this
 27 Plea Agreement and Defendant may be prosecuted for all offenses for which the United

1 States has evidence; (b) Defendant will not oppose any steps taken by the United States
 2 to nullify this Plea Agreement, including the filing of a motion to withdraw from the Plea
 3 Agreement; and (c) Defendant waives any objection to the re-institution of any charges
 4 that previously were dismissed or any additional charges that had not been prosecuted.

5 Defendant further understands that if, after the date of this Plea Agreement,
 6 Defendant should engage in illegal conduct, or conduct that violates any conditions of
 7 release or the conditions of confinement (examples of which include, but are not limited
 8 to, obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a court proceeding, criminal conduct while
 9 pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Pretrial Services
 10 Officer, Probation Officer, or Court), the United States is free under this Plea Agreement
 11 to file additional charges against Defendant or to seek a sentence that takes such conduct
 12 into consideration by requesting the Court to apply additional adjustments or
 13 enhancements in its Sentencing Guidelines calculations in order to increase the applicable
 14 advisory Guidelines range, and/or by seeking an upward departure or variance from the
 15 calculated advisory Guidelines range. Under these circumstances, the United States is
 16 free to seek such adjustments, enhancements, departures, and/or variances even if
 17 otherwise precluded by the terms of the Plea Agreement.

18 **15. Waiver of Appellate Rights and Rights to Collateral Attacks.**

19 Defendant acknowledges that, by entering the guilty plea required by this Plea
 20 Agreement, Defendant waives all rights to appeal from Defendant's conviction, and any
 21 pretrial rulings of the Court, and any rulings of the Court made prior to entry of the
 22 judgment of conviction. Defendant further agrees that, provided the Court imposes a
 23 custodial sentence that is within or below the Sentencing Guidelines range as determined
 24 by the Court at the time of sentencing, Defendant waives to the full extent of the law:

25 a. Any right conferred by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742,
 26 to challenge, on direct appeal, the sentence imposed by the Court, including any fine,

1 restitution order, probation or supervised release conditions, or forfeiture order (if
 2 applicable); and

3 b. Any right to bring a collateral attack against the conviction and
 4 sentence, including any restitution order imposed, except as it may relate to the
 5 effectiveness of legal representation.

6 This waiver does not preclude Defendant from bringing an appropriate motion
 7 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, to address the conditions of Defendant's confinement or
 8 the decisions of the Bureau of Prisons regarding the execution of Defendant's sentence.

9 If Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement at any time by appealing or collaterally
 10 attacking (except as to effectiveness of legal representation) the conviction or sentence in
 11 any way, the United States may prosecute Defendant for any counts, including those with
 12 mandatory minimum sentences, that were dismissed or not charged pursuant to this Plea
 13 Agreement.

14 16. **Voluntariness of Plea.** Defendant agrees that Defendant has entered into
 15 this Plea Agreement freely and voluntarily, and that no threats or promises were made to
 16 induce Defendant to enter a plea of guilty other than the promises contained in this Plea
 17 Agreement or set forth on the record at the change of plea hearing in this matter.

18 17. **Statute of Limitations.** In the event this Plea Agreement is not accepted
 19 by the Court for any reason, or Defendant breaches any of the terms of this Plea
 20 Agreement, the statute of limitations shall be deemed to have been tolled from the date of
 21 the Plea Agreement to: (1) thirty (30) days following the date of non-acceptance of the
 22 Plea Agreement by the Court; or (2) thirty (30) days following the date on which a breach
 23 of the Plea Agreement by Defendant is discovered by the United States Attorney's
 24 Office.

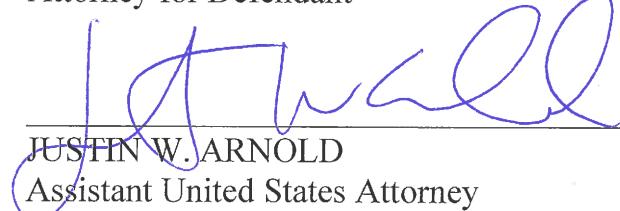
25 18. **Completeness of Plea Agreement.** The United States and Defendant
 26 acknowledge that these terms constitute the entire Plea Agreement between the parties,
 27 except as may be set forth on the record at the change of plea hearing in this matter. This

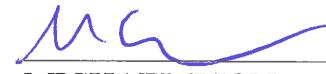
1 Plea Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District
2 of Washington. It does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office or any other
3 office or agency of the United States, or any state or local prosecutor.

4 Dated: January 18, 2023.

5 
6 JUSTIN COSTELLO
7 Defendant

8 
9 DENNIS CARROLL
10 Attorney for Defendant

11 
12 JUSTIN W. ARNOLD
13 Assistant United States Attorney

14 
15 MICHAEL DION
16 Assistant United States Attorney